

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A pacifier sized to be worn in a mouth of a user, the pacifier comprising:

a shield having a substantially planar body and further having an interior surface directed toward a rear of the mouth of the user when the shield is worn adjacent to the mouth of the user;

a shelf connected to the interior surface of the shield wherein the shelf is sized to be worn in the mouth of the user wherein the shelf has a length defined between a first end of the shelf and a second end of the shelf wherein the shelf has a top side of the shelf and a bottom side of the shelf wherein the top side of the shelf is located opposite to the bottom side of the shelf wherein the shelf has a width defined between a first side of the shelf and a second side of the shelf wherein the first side of the shelf is adjacent to the interior surface of the shield wherein the shelf abuts the interior surface of the shield wherein the top side of the shelf ~~has a substantially~~ is planar and flat with respect to the bottom side of the shelf between the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf and from the first end of the shelf to the second end of the shelf ~~body~~ and further wherein the shelf is substantially U-shaped; and

a bulb attached to the shelf wherein the bulb has a length defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end is connected to the shelf and the second end extends rearward into

the mouth when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user wherein a perimeter of the bulb at the first end is less than a perimeter of the bulb at the second end and further wherein the second end of the bulb extends downward with respect to the first end of the bulb when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user.

Claim 2 (original): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

a ring attached to the shield.

Claim 3 (original): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

lingual tabs integrally formed with the shelf wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth of the user.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

walls extending from the shelf wherein the walls do not contact the interior surface of the shield.

Claim 5 (original): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

a depression within the shelf wherein the depression is substantially U-shaped.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

a liquid ~~within~~ located inside the shelf wherein the liquid can be heated or cooled.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A pacifier sized to be worn in a mouth of a user, the pacifier comprising:

a shield having a substantially planar body;

a shelf attached to the shield wherein the shelf has a first end, a second end located opposite to the first end and a midline located in the middle of the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf wherein the midline of the shelf is adjacent to the shield wherein the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf extend rearward with respect to the mouth of the user when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user wherein the shelf is substantially U-shaped and wherein the shelf has a width defined between an upper side of the shelf ~~positions~~ and a lower side ~~positions~~ of the shelf wherein the width at the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf ~~or the midline~~ is thicker than the width at the midline of the shelf ~~second end~~; and

a depression within the top side of the shelf and the bottom side of the shelf wherein the depression is substantially U-shaped.

Claim 8 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:

a gel stored within the shelf wherein the gel maintains a temperature for the shelf.

Claim 9 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the shelf.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:

a second portion located between the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf wherein the second portion is flat between the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf.

Claim 11 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:
an isthmus connecting the shield and the shelf.

Claim 12 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:
a ring attached to the shield.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:

a bulb connected to the shelf wherein the bulb extends rearward into the mouth of the user when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A pacifier sized to be worn in a mouth of a user, the pacifier comprising:

a shield having a flat surface which contacts a front of the mouth of the user when the shield is worn in the mouth of the user;

a shelf attached to the flat surface of the shield wherein the shelf has a length defined between a first end of the shelf and a second end of the shelf wherein the shelf has a width defined between a first side of the shelf and a second side of the shelf wherein the first side of the shelf is connected to the shield wherein the shelf has a thickness defined between a top side of the shelf and a bottom side of the shelf ~~wherein the shelf is defined by a plane~~ wherein the shelf is substantially U-shaped and defines an interior surface wherein the thickness of the shelf between the top side of the shelf and the bottom side of the shelf is uniform and continuous between the first side of the shelf and the second

side of the shelf and from the first end of the shelf to the second end of the shelf; and

lingual tabs integrally formed with the shelf along the interior surface wherein each of the lingual tabs have an apex which extends rearward into the mouth of the user when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user and further wherein the lingual tabs extend ~~downward~~ outwardly with respect to the bottom side plane of the shelf.

Claim 15 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 further comprising:

a bulb attached to the shelf wherein the bulb has a first end connected to the shelf and a second end wherein the first end has a first thickness which is less than a second thickness at the second end.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 14 wherein each of the lingual tabs extends posteriorly or rearward into the mouth of the user when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user.

Claim 17 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 wherein the shelf has a substantially planar body.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 14 wherein the shield is constructed from ~~a light-absorbent material~~ a material which is locatable in a dark environment.

Claim 19 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 wherein the shelf has a depression wherein the depression is substantially U-shaped.

Claim 20 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 further comprising:

a liquid stored within the shelf wherein the liquid maintains a temperature for the shelf.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A pacifier sized to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth and gum tissue, the pacifier comprising:

a ~~generally U-shaped~~ shelf having a length defined between a first end of the shelf and a second end of the shelf wherein the shelf is generally U-shaped ~~opposite to the first end~~ wherein the shelf has a width defined between a first side of the shelf and a second side of the shelf ~~opposite to the first side~~ wherein the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf have a depression located between the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf wherein the ~~first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf have~~ has a first thickness located between the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf wherein the shelf has a second thickness located at the depression of the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf wherein the second thickness of the shelf is ~~less~~ greater than the first thickness of the shelf and further wherein the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf are bulbous.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

a bulb attached to second side of the shelf.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

a shield attached to the first side of the shelf.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 21 wherein a portion of the shelf is flat wherein the portion of the shelf is located between the first end of the shelf and the second end of the shelf.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 21 wherein the length of the shelf is sized to receive ~~based on~~ the teeth of the user when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

a ring connected to the shelf wherein the ring is adjacent to the first side of the shelf.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

lingual tabs attached to the second side of the shelf.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

walls integrally formed with the shelf wherein the walls guide the teeth of the user when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

a gel located inside the shelf wherein the gel maintains a temperature for the shelf.

Claim 30 (presently presented): The pacifier of Claim 21 wherein the shelf is made from a material which is locatable in a dark environment.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 21 wherein the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf ~~together~~ with the depression between the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf surround the gum tissue in the mouth of the user when the shelf is worn in the mouth of the user.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A pacifier sized to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth and gum tissue, the pacifier comprising:

a ~~generally U-shaped~~ shelf having a length defined between a first end of the shelf and a second end of the shelf wherein the shelf is generally U-shaped ~~opposite to the first end~~ wherein the shelf has a width defined between a first side of the shelf and a second side of the shelf wherein the shelf has a top side of the shelf and a bottom side of the shelf located opposite to the top ~~first~~ side wherein the top side of the shelf has a first area located between the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf wherein the first area on the top side of the shelf defines ~~the first end and the second end have a first~~ depression on the top side of the shelf wherein the first area and the first depression extend between from the first side end of the shelf to ~~and the second side~~ end of the shelf wherein the bottom side of the

shelf has a second area located between the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf wherein the second area on the bottom side of the shelf defines a second depression on the bottom side of the shelf wherein the second area and the second depression extend from the first end of the shelf to the second end of the shelf wherein the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf have has a first thickness between the top side of the shelf and the bottom side of the shelf at the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf wherein the shelf has a second thickness at between the first depression on the top side of the shelf and the second depression on the bottom side of the shelf wherein the second thickness is less than the first thickness and further wherein the first side and the second side are bulbous, and
walls integrally formed with the shelf wherein the walls guide the teeth of the user.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 32 further comprising:

a lingual tab extending outwardly with respect to ~~from~~ the bottom side of the shelf.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 32 further comprising:

a gel located inside the shelf wherein the gel maintains a temperature for the shelf.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 32 further comprising:

a ring attached to the shelf wherein the ring is adjacent to the first side of the shelf.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 32 further comprising:

a bulb extending outwardly with respect to the second side of ~~from~~ the shelf.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A pacifier sized to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth and gum tissue, the pacifier comprising:

a ~~generally U-shaped~~ shelf having a length defined between a first end of the shelf and a second end of the shelf ~~opposite to the first end~~ wherein the shelf is generally U-shaped wherein the shelf has a width defined between a first side of the shelf and a second side of the shelf wherein the shelf has a top side of the shelf and a bottom side of the shelf located opposite to the top ~~first~~ side of the shelf wherein the top side of the shelf and the bottom side of the shelf ~~the first end and the second end~~ have a depression which is defined between the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf on the top side of the shelf and the bottom side of the shelf wherein the depression on the top side of the shelf and the bottom of the shelf extends from the first end of the shelf to the second end of the shelf wherein the first side of

the shelf and the second side of the shelf have a first thickness defined between the top side of the shelf and the bottom side of the shelf wherein the shelf has a second thickness at the depression defined between the top side of the shelf and the bottom side of the shelf wherein the second thickness is less than the first thickness ~~wherein the first side and the second side are bulbous~~ and further wherein the shelf is made from a material ~~wherein the material~~ which is locatable in a dark environment.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

walls integrally formed with the shelf wherein the walls guide the teeth of the user.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

a lingual tab extending from the shelf.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

a gel inside the shelf.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

a ring attached to the shelf.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

a bulb extending from the shelf.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method for maintaining proper dentition in a mouth of a ~~the~~ user wherein the proper dentition of the user at a first age is a first dentition and further wherein the proper dentition of the user at a second age is a second dentition wherein the second age of the user is greater than the first age of the user, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first pacifier sized to be worn in the ~~a~~ mouth of the user at the first age wherein the first pacifier has a first shelf and a first ring attached to a first shield wherein the first shield is located between the first shelf and the first ring wherein the first shelf is generally U-shaped and has a first length of the first shelf defined between a first end of the first shelf and a second end of the first shelf wherein a first bulb is attached to the first shelf wherein the first bulb extends toward a rear of the mouth of the user when the first pacifier is worn in the mouth of the user at the first age and further wherein the first shelf contacts teeth of the user when the first pacifier is worn in the mouth of the user at the first age; and

providing a second pacifier sized to be worn in the mouth of the user at the second age wherein the second pacifier has a second shelf and a second ring attached to a second shield wherein a second bulb is attached to the second shelf wherein the second shelf has a second length defined between a first end of the second shelf and a second end of the second shelf wherein the second

length of the second shelf is greater than the first length of the first shield is smaller than the first shield and the second bulb of the second pacifier is a smaller bulb than the first bulb of the first pacifier wherein the second bulb extends toward the rear of the mouth of the user when the second pacifier is worn in the mouth of the user at the second age and further wherein the second shelf contacts teeth of the user when the second pacifier is worn in the mouth of the user at the second age.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The ~~pacifier~~ method of Claim 43 further comprising the step of:

providing an extension of the second shelf or a third shelf to be worn in the mouth of a user.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The ~~pacifier~~ method of Claim 43 further comprising the step of:

attaching a lingual tab to the first shelf and the second self.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The ~~pacifier~~ method of Claim 43 further comprising the step of:

providing a gel within the first shelf, and the second shelf ~~and the third shelf~~.